

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 161646
ORIGIN NEA-11

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARP:JCOUNTRYMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE 3684

S E C R E T STATE 161646

FOR TWINAM

FOLLOWING REPEAT SANA 3055 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO JIDDA,
FIYADH, CAIRO, AMMAN, TEHRAN, KUWAIT, ABU DHABI, MANAMA, MUSCAT,
MOGADISCIO, ADDIS ABABA, DJIBOUTI, KHARTOUM, LONDON, COMIDEASTFOR,
CHUSMTM C DHAHRAN, USEUCOM, SECDEF 24 JUN 78

QUOTE S E C R E T SANA 3055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF YAR CHIEF OF STATE

1. FLASH MESSAGE (NOTAL) NOTIFIED SECSTATE
THAT YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC PRESIDENT AHMED HUSSAYN
AL-GHASHMI WAS ASSISSINATED THIS MORNING, 24 JUNE, IN
HIS OFFICE IN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS.

2. INCIDENT OCCURRED ABOUT 5 OR 10 PAST 9:00 WHEN
GHASHMI, APPARENTLY, RECEIVED MAN WHO PURPORTED TO BE
HEAD OF SOUTH YEMENI DELEGATION WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO
RETURN HOSTAGES TAKEN BY ABDAL ALIM INTO PDRY.

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3. EXPLOSION OCCURRED DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF PRESIDENT AND
BLINDED HIM AS WELL AS INFLECTING INTERNAL INJURIES AND
NUMEROUS BROKEN BONES. BOMBER APPARENTLY DIED AT
SAME TIME. GHASHMI WAS TAKEN TO MILITARY HOSPITAL
WHERE ITALIAN MEDICAL TEAM, ALONG WITH SOVIETS,
ATTEMPTED TO MAINTAIN HIS LIFE. HE MAINTAINED CON-
SCIOUSNESS TO THE END AT ABOUT 10:10. DOCTOR WHO

ATTENDED PRESIDENT, AND WHO GAVE CHARGE EYE-
WITNESS ACCOUNT OF DEATH, WAS NOT RELEASED UNTIL
12:45 FROM HOSPITAL. WHILE NO ANNOUNCEMENT MADE
YET, WORD WILL NOW SPREAD FAST.

4. SANA IS QUIET. OUR SEARCHES EARLIER THIS MORNING
WHEN WE INITIALLY HEARD OF BOMBING DID NOT DISCLOSE
ANY MILITARY MOVEMENTS OR UNUSUAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS.
AS OF 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, SAME IS TRUE. HEAD-
QUARTERS IS, HOWEVER, SEALED OFF FROM REST OF SANA BY
TANKS AND TROOP REINFORCEMENTS.

5. WE ARE SETTING UP WARDEN SYSTEM
AS PRECAUTION AND ARE NOTIFYING AMERICANS IN SANA TO
STAY HOME. SEE NO DANGER TO AMERICANS AT PRESENT.
RANSOM

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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